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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An *in vitro* serological assay method for ~~[[diagnosing]]~~ detecting and quantifying the presence of microbial agents by immunodetection, wherein the presence is detected and the quantity of patient immunoglobulins is assayed of both classes M and G, or only class G, specific to a microbial antigen characteristic of said microbial agent, in a patient's serum sample to be tested, by detection of an immunological reaction complex between said microbial antigen to be detected and a said specific class M immunoglobulin for IgM assay and/or respectively a said specific class G immunoglobulin for IgG assay, using a first detection substance and/or respectively a second detection substance comprising an antibody only reacting with a said immunoglobulin of the patient species of class M and/or respectively G, characterized in that the method comprises:

1/ carrying out the preliminary control steps in which: said serum sample to be tested and said first and second detection substances, or only said second detection substance, are contacted with at least one solid support on which the following antigens have been attached:

a first control antigen consisting of a non-specific class G immunoglobulin of the patient species, and

a second control antigen containing DNA/histone complexes,